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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 PC-05 /082 W
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R 312220Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0072
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0530

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, NU
SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH CORNELIO HUECK

1. LEADING COSTA RICAN DAILY LA NACION PUBLISHED "EXCLUSIVE" INTER-
VIEW WITH CORNELIO HUECK 31 JAN. REPORTER INTERVIEWED HUECK AT
LATTER'S FINCA IN LAS SALINAS OVER WEEKEND. HEADLINE SUMS UP
THRUST OF INTERVIEW: "SOMOZA'S FALL SEEMS EASY TO CORNELIO HUECK"
(FACIL LE PARECE CAIDA DE SOMOZA A CORNELIO HUECK). KEY POINTS
COVERED:
A. ON THE PRESENT SITUATION: "I THINK THE OPPOSITION CONSIDERS
THESE DAYS KEY TO ACHIEVING WHAT THEY HAVE ALVWAYS WANTED--POWER.
THE TWO FORCES ARE THERE--THE ONE THAT HAS THE POWER AND WANTS TO
KEEP IT AND THE ONE THAT WANTS TO GRAB IT. IT WOULD SEEM THAT
THIS IS THE EASY OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE".
B. ON THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION: "I DON'T KNOW WHY CHAMORRO WAS
MURDERED. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT HE ATTACKED A NUMBER OF BUSINESSES
OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.....I HAVE MORE OBLIGATIONS TO THE CHAMORRO
FAMILY THAN TO ANY OTHER PERSON IN THIS COUNTRY. THEY NEVER BELIEVED
THE FARSE THAT THE OTHERS WERE PUTTING TOGETHER AND I AM THANKFUL
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TO THEM".
C. ON HIS RELATIONS WITH SOMOZA: "FOR MANY MONTHS, SINCE SEPTEMBER,
I HAVE NOT SEEN THE PRESIDENT".
D. ON WHAT HE WOULD DO NOW IF HE WERE IN SOMOZA'S SHOES: "...I
DON'T WANT TO GIVE ADVICE TO ANYONE WHEN I HAVEN'T BEEN ASKED. I
DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANYTHING. LET THEM GET OUT OF THEIR
OWN MESS".

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E. ON HIS FALL FROM SOMOZA'S FAVOR: "...I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF FALLEN WITHIN MY PARTY. I AM AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF IT..."
F. ON INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES: "...IN THESE LITTLE COUNTRIES THEY BELIEVE THAT WHEN WASHINGTON POUNDS ON THE DESK THAT THE DESK SHOULD BE POUNDED HERE AS WELL. THESE ARE THE REASONS WHY THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING LATELY, BECAUSE THE POLITICAL PARTIES BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE MOMENT TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS THE OBJECTIVE OF EVERY PARTY THAT IS NOT IN POWER".
G. ON THE FORCE OF THE OPPOSITION: "IF THE (LIBERAL) PARTY SPLITS, AS IT SEEMS, AND ALL THE OPPOSITION GETS TOGETHER, SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO BE SEEN. THIS CAN ONLY BE VERIFIED IN THE 1981 ELECTION. THEN WE WILL SEE THE VOTE COUNT. WE'LL SEE THE LIBERAL PARTY WINNING AS ALWAYS...I AM NOT OBLIGATED TO PARDON THE ERRORS OF MEN, BUT I AM OBLIGATED TO SUBMIT TO MY PARTY. I CANNOT BLAME THE PARTY".
H. ON HIS REACTION TO SOMOZA'S LAST SPEECH: (SARCASTICALLY) "I HEARD ALL THE SPEECHES AND THE PRIEST'S BLESSING BUT RADIO INTERFERENCE OCCURRED WHEN THE PRESIDENT SPOKE AND I WASN'T ABLE TO HEAR HIM..."

2. COMPLETE INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND MANAGUA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANJO00530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780049-0397
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978013/aaaaaceh.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9feaa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3724969
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERVIEW WITH CORNELIO HUECK
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, NU, CS, (HUECK, CORNELIO)
To: STATE MANAGUA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9feaa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014